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PREFACE

TWENTY-FOURTH VOLUME.

The TWENTY-FOURTH Volume of the Sailor's Magazine is completed. It contains a record of the various efforts made for the social and moral improvement of seamen with some of the results. It has as usual its long, *long* lists of disasters and deaths. Its aim has been to set forth the condition and claims of a most useful class of men, and to mete out justice to all. If it has sometimes used sharpness, it was where a dull razor would have been useless. If sometimes prosy, it has but imitated one of the moods of ocean life. None perhaps are more sensible of its faults, or more distinctly see wherein it could be improved than its Editors. Most of the labor bestowed upon it by them has been casual or incidental, and in the intervals of time devoted to more exhausting matters, or borrowed from the hours of sleep. It gives them sincere pleasure to know that its successive numbers have been generally acceptable and useful; and more, that with many it is the *favorite periodical* of the day. For much of its *freshness* of incident, and *saltness* of anecdote and illustration it is indebted to seamen themselves. We thank them for it, and beg their continued remembrance of their *own* Magazine. No pens describe sea-life like the pens of those familiar with ocean scenes. None other could have written the inimitable "Tom Bowling," or the beautiful adieu to Italy, the "Up Anchor for Home, Boys," contained in the May and August numbers of this volume.

For the future all we can say is, that if our efforts keep pace with our intentions; if our friends on the sea and land continue their favors, and a good Providence smiles, the Magazine shall be worthy of the age in which it lives, and of the noble object it advocates.

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